

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7980

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

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LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ'S FIRST ANNUAL REPORT: U.S.-

VENEZUELAN RELATIONS

1. NEAR THE END OF HIS MARCH 12 ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS ON HIS FIRST TWELVE MONTHS IN OFFICE, IN A SECTION ENTITLED "A NEW SENSE OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY," PRESIDENT PEREZ DISCUSSED VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. NOTING THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY, PEREZ STATED THAT THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE NURTURE NEITHER HOSTILITY NOR FEELINGS OF REVENGE TOWARD THE U.S. "IN VERY DIFFICULT PERIODS OF ITS HISTORY, WE HAVE PROVIDED TIMELY AND SINCERE COOPERATION."

2. NONETHELESS, HE CONTINUED, THE STRUCTURE OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC ORDER HAS REQUIRED THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S., EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEM DO NOT COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. PEREZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT VENEZUELA, "DESPITE ITS LACK OF TECHNOLOGICAL, FINANCIAL AND MILITARY POWER,

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DEALS WITH OTHER STATES ON THE BASIS OF THE UNEQUIVOCAL

MANDATE OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND IN TERMS OF EQUALITY WHICH CANNOT BE RENOUNCED." HE SAID THAT THIS "NEW ATTITUDE" WILL HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS FOR THE U.S. AS WELL AS FOR VENEZUELA. PEREZ STATED, "IN THIS WAY WE WILL DEVELOP A MORE LOYAL, FRANK AND HEALTHY COOPERATION, WHICH WILL NOT BE BASED ON MENTAL, ECONOMIC OR STRATEGIC SERVITUDE BUT RATHER ON COMPROMISES AMONG FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT EACH OTHER AND WHICH ARE ABLE TO OPERATE ON THE HIGH LEVELS OF TRUE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY. WE ARE EXTENDING OUR HAND TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE IN ORDER TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A WORLD OF COOPERATION AND TO AVOID THE DANGEROUS CONFRONTATIONS WHICH GROW OUT OT THE ANXIETIES OF A WORLD DISLOCATED BY INJUSTICES AND CONTRADICTIONS".

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